

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 3053

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications of judges of certain courts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 24.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 24.001. ~~[AGE]~~ QUALIFICATION OF JUDGES. A person is not eligible to serve as a [A] district judge unless the person:

(1) is ~~[must be]~~ at least 25 years old; and

(2) has never been found to be a vexatious litigant under Chapter 11, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

SECTION 2. Section 25.0014, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 25.0014. QUALIFICATIONS OF JUDGE. A person is not eligible to serve as a [The] judge of a statutory county court unless the person ~~[must]~~:

(1) is ~~[be]~~ at least 25 years of age;

(2) is ~~[be]~~ a United States citizen and has ~~[have]~~ resided in the county for at least two years before election or appointment; ~~[and]~~

(3) is ~~[be]~~ a licensed attorney in this state who has practiced law or served as a judge of a court in this state, or both combined, for the four years preceding election or appointment, unless otherwise provided for by law; and

(4) has never been found to be a vexatious litigant

1 under Chapter 11, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

2 SECTION 3. Section 25.0033, Government Code, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 25.0033. QUALIFICATIONS OF JUDGE. A person is not  
5 qualified to serve as a [~~The~~] judge of a statutory probate court  
6 unless the person [~~must~~]:

7 (1) is [~~be~~] at least 25 years of age;

8 (2) is [~~be~~] a United States citizen and has [~~have~~]  
9 resided in the county for at least two years before election or  
10 appointment; [~~and~~]

11 (3) is [~~be~~] a licensed attorney in this state who has  
12 practiced law or served as a judge of a court in this state, or both  
13 combined, for the five years preceding election or appointment,  
14 unless otherwise provided for by law; and

15 (4) has never been found to be a vexatious litigant  
16 under Chapter 11, Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

17 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to  
18 a judge who is elected or appointed on or after the effective date  
19 of this Act. A judge elected or appointed before the effective date  
20 of this Act continues to serve for the term to which the judge was  
21 elected or appointed, unless otherwise removed as provided by law.

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.